APPROVED MINUTES

Adult Education Advisory Committee January 11, 2006 Utah State Office of Education Room 241 (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Present: Herb Clark, Jared Haines, Wayne Mifflin, JoAnne Milner (representing James

Anderson), Norman Nakamura, Marilyn, Nunez, Paula Oakey, Mary Ann

Parkinson, Don Uchida, and Gary Wixom

Excused: Nancy Birchell, Edwin Espinel, Cindy Krueger, Suzette Hudson, Edie Mitko, and

Nate Southerland

Guest: David Frost

Utah State Office of Education Staff:

Jeff Galli, Sandi Grant, Marty Kelly, Shauna South, Murray Meszaros, and Carolyn Johnson (Secretary)

Welcome: Paula welcomed everyone in attendance, and because of new members, she had everyone go around the table to introduce themselves and tell who they represented.

Minutes: The minutes were approved as corrected with Gary Wixom moving them and Wayne Mifflin seconding the motion. The motion was passed.

AEFLA Financial Issues

Jeff passed out a federal document regarding "maintenance effort" that had been addressed at a previous meeting for the Adult Education Advisory Committee. He discussed and clarified the 90 percent issue for everyone. He opened up time for questions and answers as well as indicated that from this information, it looked like adult education would not likely lose any funding. Regarding funding in general and adult education nationwide, adult education will take a one percent decrease across the board.

Review of a Family Literacy News Release

Shauna passed out a copy of a press release from Louisville, Kentucky indicating she thought the Advisory Council would be a good group to talk about how to accomplish a survey for the state of Utah, how to talk to the press about the results of the survey, and how to go about putting a press release together.

She reviewed the handout and various tables with the committee. It was pointed out that the tables in this press release from Kentucky showed there was little progress in literacy over the last ten years in any one area of the United States. Discussion from Shauna's review involved the following issues:

• Utah's largest population in need of literacy opportunities are immigrants, refugees, and Hispanics.

- It was suggested that the committee have future discussion regarding our limited track record in Utah addressing the educational needs of minority populations as the data is pretty clear.
- We need to recognize what part adult education is addressing, and what we are up against.

Paula Oakey interjected and questioned if these concerns were something that the committee should make a decision on or endorse. (No action was taken.) She also indicated all of these comments lead into what she and Marty had recently discussed about reorganizing the committee's goals and make sure they were in focus of the committee's challenges.

Advocacy (the Board and the Public)

Marty mentioned the mission statement was addressed at the last meeting, and indicated her desire was to discuss the goals, position, focus, direction, makeup, needs, role, etc. of the Adult Education Advisory Committee. She emphasized the importance of the committee's role in advocacy for the at risk population as adult education clients. She wanted to discuss how to get information to the Board, to the Department of Workforce Services, to the community at large such as the media and different populations with the community. Several handouts were passed around and reviewed.

Paula had Marty summarize what some of the committee's responsibilities were to the community and to the population at risk which they had discussed previously.

- To make sure the committee has the tools and knowledge to deal with the at-risk population.
- To have a good relationship with the State Board of Education and help the Board understand that adult education is not community education, and emphasize that they focus on the remedial skills, high school diplomas, and GED.
- Because of the Workforce Investment Act adult education has a direct responsibility to make sure lines and pathways are open with Workforce Services so their clients are coming to us for education.
- The committee needs to be celebrating who they are and the accomplishments of adult education students.

Marty emphasized what a great resource the Advisory Committee is coming from a business community, and asked what adult education could do for them. She asked them what was in the community that adult education needed to focus on as state office staff. Marty indicated adult education could use their direction. She encouraged their communication with the State Board and indicated it would be nice if they could be on their agenda once a month to celebrate adult education. Marty emphasized that business leaders and representatives from the community seemed to have a stronger voice and are listened to more readily by the Board than from the office staff.

Several comments followed regarding State Board members and familiarizing them with adult education:

- There is only one member on the Board, from Salt Lake Community College, that has any knowledge of what adult education is about.
- Don Uchida, from Rehabilitation, has time following every election to meet with the new members. The Board members just want to know who the staff is, what they do and who

- works for them. (Don said there is just a small window of opportunity and you have to seize the moment.)
- Shauna reminded the committee if Marty wanted to bring everyone to speak to the Board, they would come as an advocate of who they represented on the committee.
- Paula indicated maybe it should be a goal this year for the Adult Education Advisory Committee to meet with State Board members and start building a relationship with them.

Marty mentioned that she and Mary are meeting with the new Associate Superintendent, Myron Cottam, next week.

Adult Education Issue

There was considerable discussion regarding Representative Dougall still wanting the adult education program to be under the direction of the Department of Workforce Services without the money. Marty indicated he is looking at the 8 million dollars for public education. "It is cut and dried in his mind." Gary Wixom asked Marty if the Advisory Committee could help with a solution and commented that Representative Dougall couldn't ignore a message from the Advisory Committee signed by non-state employed people.

Gary Wixom made a motion that a letter be drafted from the Adult Education Advisory Committee in support of leaving the Governance of the funding for Adult Education funding as it is. He continued to say, "we recognize there are gaps that exist, but the best way to close those gaps is to do it through the organization." The letter should go to the State Board of Education, Representatives, Senators and the Governor. Marilyn Nunez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed. A timeline was discussed and the consensus was that the letter should be written immediately.

Gary indicated that the letter should be signed by Paula Oakey, Chair-person of the Adult Education Advisory Committee. JoAnne Milner was requested to draft the letter with some input from the committee. She indicated the letter would reflect the sentiments that were written in the minutes. (Comment was made that Representative Dougall was not only attacking adult education but was also attacking the minimum schools fund.)

Herb Clark indicated he would check with American Fork Hospital to make sure there could be a strong endorsement through the Human Resource Department, and a suggestion was made to contact Rich Beklnap at Alpine School District for his support. Other suggestions were made that could possibly have some affect on Representative Dougall such as having employees/businesses in Alpine, people who represent voting constituents from his voting district, and current and former adult education students make a call as a citizen.

Other

David Frost presented a scenario showing the impact on cost for a K-12 child going through the school system who had parent(s) that did not have a diploma. The higher educated the parents are the higher educated the children are.

Lunch

Followup Survey Information

Marty is hoping to have it ready for next month; right now it is not in order. We'll talk about real concerns and share them at the next meeting.

OVAE NRS Tables

Shauna reviewed the NRS annual report that was submitted in December. She indicated the data in the tables were shown in the same way our districts and programs report their data to us. She brought attention to the fact that even though adult education enrollment had gone down, Hispanic enrollment has gone up. Discussion was entertained and questions were answered.

Jeff indicated correctional education numbers are growing. A community correctional center in this state is called a "halfway house," and there are four throughout Utah. Other institutions are expanding their facilities such as Gunnison, Beaver, and Garfield. Cache just recently built a new jail, and Jeff said, "business is good, what can I tell you."

Items for Next Agenda

- Survey
- Legislative Updates

An announcement for the Adult Education Directors/Coordinators' Meeting in St. George on March 27-29 was made, and everyone was invited.

Adjourn

Norman Nakamura motioned to adjourn and Herb Clark seconded it. The motion passed. It was announced that the next meeting would be **February 8, 2006**.